

Capsule Summary
SM-545
The Union Hotel
Leonardtown
Private

c. 1850

The Union Hotel, also known as the Fenwick Hotel, the Hotel Lawrence, the Hotel Foxwell, and finally Nuthall's Store, was constructed c. 1850 on the west side of Washington Street. According to a notice of sale posted in the November 26, 1857 issue of the St. Mary's Beacon, the Union Hotel could accomodate up to 100 guests and had stables for 200 horses. While serving as a hotel, the building was also the site of barbecues, and public debates. According to oral tradition it was also the site of the arrest of United States Congressman Benjamin Gwinn Harris by Union Troops in the 1860s. It is because of these commercial, social, and personal associations that the Union hotel represents a significant building within the heart of Leonardtown's business district.

Due to its ties to court and government functions, the hotel played an especially critical role in housing visitors to Leonardtown on court and voting days. When the building wasn't inundated by individuals attending these functions, the hotel largely served as a boarding house for single men and women whose classifications ranged from carpenters and joiners to ditchers, tailors, and ladies. Vincent Camalier, the possible builder of the Union Hotel as well as Buena Vista (SM-54) and White Hall (SM-52), is listed in the 1850 and 1860 census as living in the Hotel (presumably the Union Hotel). The 1850 census lists Joseph Morgan as the hotel keeper while in 1860 and 1870 John F. Fenwick was recorded at that same position. Other owners of the hotel included John F. Ching, Asa A. and Anna G. Lawrence, H. Webster Foxwell, Philip J. Hayden, J. Allan Coad, Rose P. Nuthall, and finally Harold T. and Catherine R. Herndon.

SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture
Economic

Resource Type

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Hotel, Store, Residence

Known Design Source:

Vincent Camalier, Master Carpenter ?

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-545

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Hotel (preferred)

and/or common Fenwick Hotel, Hotel Lawrence

2. Location

street & number 409 and 413 Washington Street ___ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ___ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Harold T. and Catherine R. herndon

street & number Rt 2, Box 527 telephone no.:

city, town Hollywood state and zip code Maryland 20636-9645

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-545

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Union Hotel is located on the west side of Washington Street, midway between Fenwick Street and Park Avenue in the heart of Leonardtown's business district. Oriented on a east/west axis the building is bordered by Washington Street on the east, a one story office building to the north, a small parking area to the west, and a two story commercial building to the south.

Constructed c. 1850, the Union Hotel is a two-and-a-half story frame building with a "salt-box" or assymetrical gable roof. The primary (east) elevation exhibits a series of six square columns that all exhibit a slight swelling or entasis (see also Buena Vista, SM-52, and White Hall, SM-54). All of these columns are supported by square brick bases. Just behind these columns is an open porch or piazza that leads to two businesses on the first floor. A series of picture bay windows with with chamfered corner boards. These windows also feature paneling above and below the windows. The building is entered through two recessed entries. Two-thirds of the second floor also exhibits an open porch. This porch shades two doors and two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The last third of the second floor has been enclosed and covered with asphalt siding. It exhibits two, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. Above a continuous box cornice is an assymetrical gable roof covered with aphalt shingles and pierced by a two brick chimney flues.

Historic photographs of the structure in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century reveal that another two story section of the hotel that included the dining room, kitchen, and office was once located on the southern end of the building. This part, however, burned in the mid-twentieth century and was replaced by a theater building.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-545

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Union Hotel, also known as the Fenwick Hotel, the Hotel Lawrence, the Hotel Foxwell, and finally Nuthall's Store, was constructed c. 1850 on the west side of Washington Street. According to a notice of sale posted in the November 26, 1857 issue of the St. Mary's Beacon, the Union Hotel could accommodate up to 100 guests and had stables for 200 horses. While serving as a hotel, the building was also the site of barbecues, and public debates. According to oral tradition it was also the site of the arrest of United States Congressman Benjamin Gwinn Harris by Union Troops in the mid 1860s. Because of its commercial, social, and personal associations, the Union hotel represents a significant building within the heart of Leonardtown's business district.

The hotel was one of only a handful of buildings listed by Benjamin Tippet as being located in Leonardtown in his c. 1857 survey--most of these buildings serving either commercial or governmental purposes. Because of the obvious ties to court and government functions, the hotel played a critical role in housing visitors to Leonardtown on court and voting days. When the building wasn't inundated by individuals attending these functions, the hotel largely served as a boarding house for single men and women whose classifications ranged from carpenters and joiners to ditchers, tailors, and ladies. Vincent Camalier, the possible builder of the Union Hotel as well as Buena Vista (SM-54) and White Hall (SM-52), is listed in the 1850 and 1860 census as living in the same dwelling (presumably the Union Hotel) as Joseph Morgan (1850) and John F. Fenwick (1860)--both listed as Hotel Keepers. The deed search confirms that these men were also the owners of the building at that time.

The original owner and proprietor of the hotel is unknown. The earliest reference to the building is an advertisement for a servant in an 1852 St. Mary's Beacon newspaper. In subsequent "For Sale" notices in 1857 and 1858, the hotel is listed as being owned by Joseph and Catherine Morgan. Curiously, on September 9, 1858 the Beacon reported that Joseph Morgan was due to sell the hotel to Benjamin G. Harris who in turn was to sell it to John F. Fenwick. None of these transactions however could be found in the St. Mary's County Land Records. A deed dating from October 21, 1879 proclaims the sale of the Union Hotel by Benjamin G. Harris to John F. Fenwick for \$7500. Fenwick, however died in testate on December 1, 1886 and a dispute over his estate ensued. In the court of equity involving Ellen Rebecca Fenwick and J. Simms Fenwick vs Ann M. Combs and Charlotte C. McSherry the court ordered the sale of the property. Robert C. Combs is proclaimed the trustee for the sale and on November 24, 1887

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-545

St. Mary's Beacon, 9 September 1858, p 2, c 1.

St. Mary's Beacon, 26 November 1857, p 3, c 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7,838 sq/ft

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

date January 6, 1997

street & number 328 Washington Street

telephone (303) 475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
814-780-7800

SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

(cont.)

John F. Ching purchased the hotel. Asa A. and Anna G. Lawrence purchased the hotel in the mid 1890s and as a result obtained a \$1000 mortgage from Wilber F. Nash. The Lawrence's also sold the following items to Nash; 1 upright piano, 1 parlor table, one large plate glass mirror, one bronze clock and ornament, two sofas, one bed lounge, one walnut book case, two upholstered easy chairs, four walnut chamber sets--each consisting of bedstead, marble-top bureau and wash stand, one walnut extension table, one walnut side-board, one walnut Hall rod. This list of items provides a small glimpse of the hotel's interior decor in the late-nineteenth century. Lawrence died intestate in 1918 and the property was subsequently sold to H. Webster Foxwell. In the mid-twentieth century, half of the original Hotel building burned in a fire. This damaged section was demolished and replaced with a movie theater in the 1950s. Since then, the hotel property has changed hands several times and presently houses a pair of beauty salons and apartments.

SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.2 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Deed Reference: Liber 427, Folio 295

Grantee: Harold T. and Catherine Herndon

Grantor: Thomas Edwin and Mary Margaret Cross

Date: August 19, 1988

Notes: The deed refers to the parcel as Nuthall's Store-House. It also notes that the property had been devised to Susie May Nuthall by her aunt Rose P. Nuthall (Estate No. 1841) (Register of Wills Liber RGC 1, Folio 307). In all the tract contains 7,838 sq. ft.

Deed Reference: Liber CBG 17, Folio 343

Grantee: Rose P. Nuthall

Grantor: William A. Loker

Date: August 17, 1945

Notes: The deed refers to the property as the Hotel Lawrence Property and Nuthall's Store House.

Deed Reference: Liber CBG 16, Folio 384

Grantee: Nora and A. Kingsley Love

Grantor: William A. and Margaret W. Loker and Paul J. and Virginia C. Bailey.

Date: October 18, 1944

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 3, Folio 35

Grantee: Nora Love

Grantor: J. Allan Coad

Date: February 19, 1925

Deed Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 488

Grantee: J. Allan Coad

Grantor: L. Allison Wilmer, trustee

Date: December 16, 1924

Notes: The previous owner, Philip J. Hayden, went bankrupt (No 4294 Bankrupt Docket P) and as a result was sold on the courthouse steps in Leonardtown on September 23, 1924 for \$5000.

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 20, Folio 494

Grantee: Philip J. Hayden

Grantor: H. Webster and Elsie M. Foxwell

Date: May 2, 1922

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 17, Folio 119

Grantee: H. Webster and Elsie M. Foxwell

Grantor: L. Allison Wilmer and Joseph H. Ching, trustees

Date: May 15, 1918

Notes: In 1918, Asa Lawrence died in testate. As a result, Frank D. Lawrence had to settle his estate (Equity Case #1275, NE). The property was subsequently sold to Foxwell to pay off Lawrence's debts. This deed refers to the property as called "The Union Hotel Property", "Fenwick Hotel Property", and the "Hotel Lawrence Lot."

SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.3 Significance

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 5, Folio 94
Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence
Grantor: L. Ernest Payne
Date: July 12, 1905

Deed Reference: Liber EBA 5, Folio 43
Grantee: L. Ernest Payne
Grantor: Asa A. Lawrence
Date: May 25, 1905

Deed Reference: Liber JJG 5, Folio 250
Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence
Grantor: Joseph H. Ching, trustee
Date: June 23, 1898

Deed Reference: Liber JFF 10, Folio 9
Grantee: John F. Ching
Grantor: Robert C. Combs
Date: November 24, 1887

Notes: In an equity case involving the Ann M. Combs and Charlotte C. McSherry vs. Ellen Rebecca Fenwick, the court resolves to sell the property.

Deed Reference: Decree Record Liber JFF 6, Folio 1, St. Mary's County Land Records
Plaintiffs--Ann M. Combs and Charlotte C. McSherry
Defendants--Ellen R. Fenwick and J. Simms Fenwick
Date: 1887

Notes: In an effort to settle the estate of John F. Fenwick, the court orders the sale of the property. It refers to the property as the "Union Hotel Lot" at the Northwest corner of Washington and Fenwick Streets containing about one acre.

Deed Reference: Liber JFF 4, Folio 30
Grantee: John F. Fenwick
Grantor: Benjamin G. and Martha E. Harris
Date: October 21, 1879

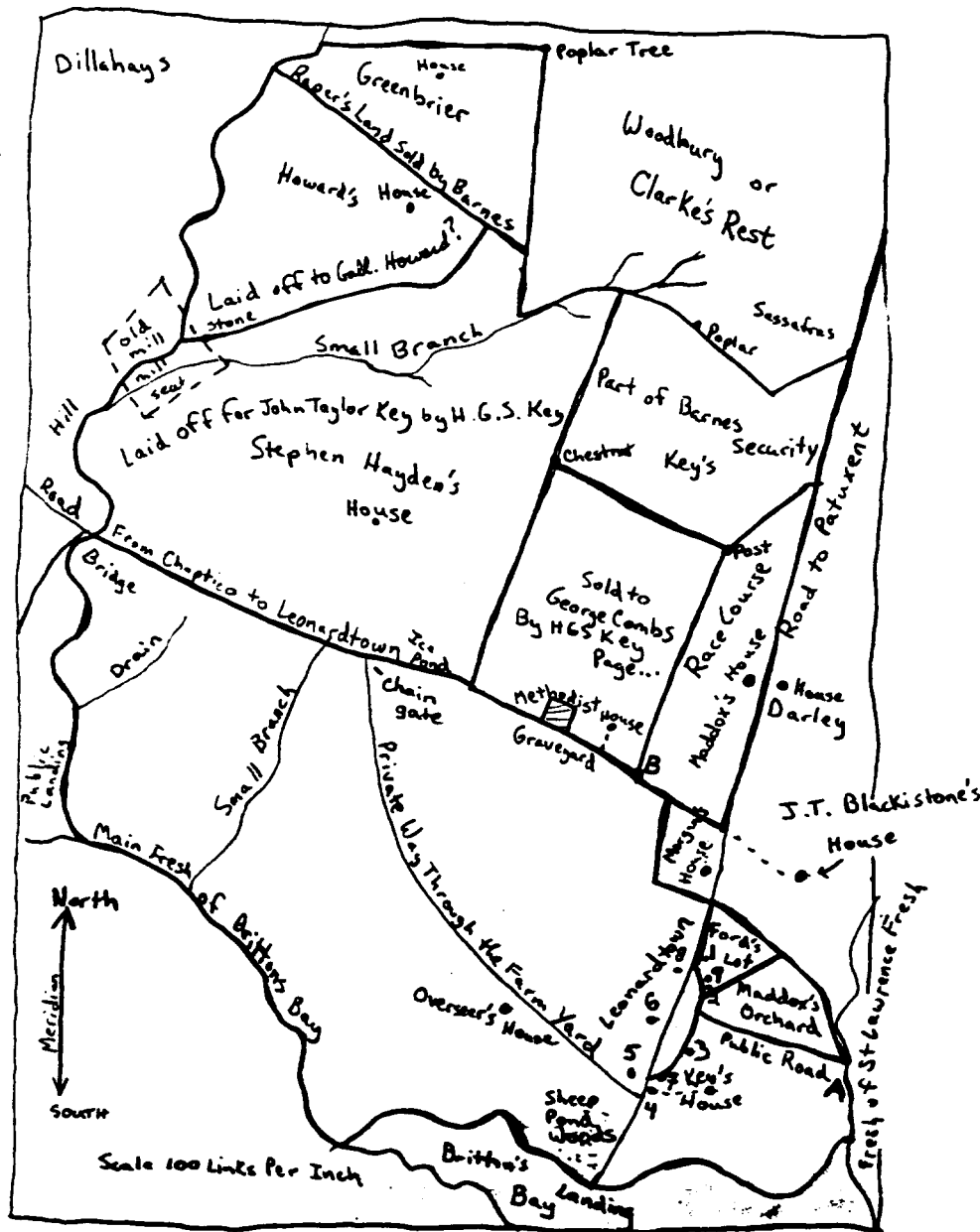
Notes: The Harris' sell the property to Fenwick for \$7,500. The sale includes "all the stables and outbuildings thereto attached also a small lot and office adjoining the said hotel and now occupied by Dr. A. J. Spalding."

(Related transactions)

Deed Reference: (Mortgage) Folio JJG 3, Folio 344
Grantee: Asa A. and Anna G. Lawrence
Grantor: Wilber F. Nash
Date: 1890s

Notes: In this mortgage Lawrence agrees to pay Nash \$1000 by a certain date. He also sells Nash the following items from the Union Hotel: 1 upright piano, 1 parlor table, one large plate glass mirror, one bronze clock and ornament, two sofas, one bed lounge, one walnut book case, two upholstered easy chairs, four walnut chamber sets--each consisting of bedstead, marble-top bureau and wash stand, one walnut extension table, one walnut side-board, one walnut Hall rod.

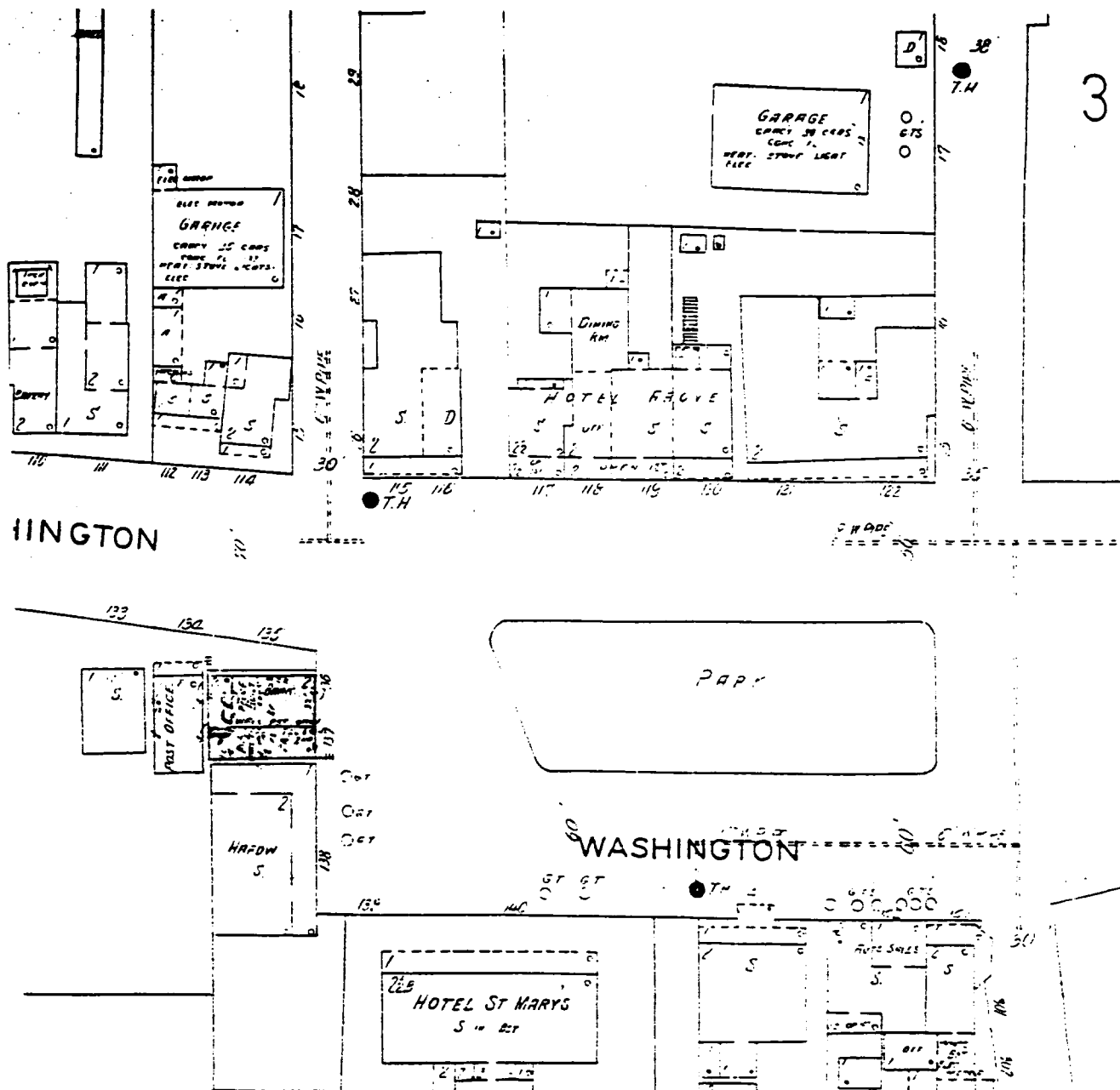
SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.4 Significance



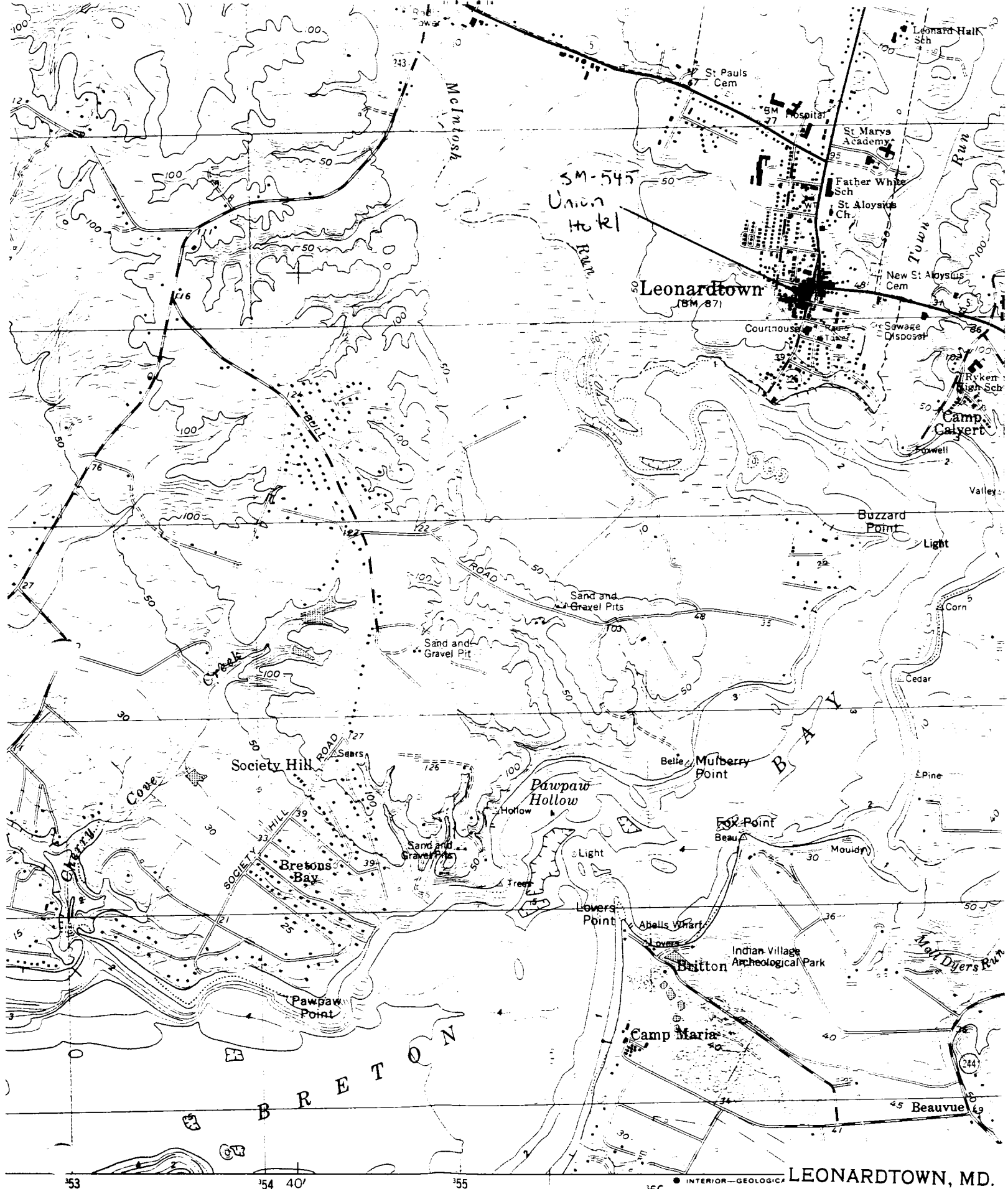
1. The Catholic Church
2. The Methodist Church *
3. The Washington Hotel
4. The Court House
5. The County Jail
6. The Union Hotel
7. Printing Office
8. Benjamin G. Harris's * House
9. Rob Ford's House
- A. Beginning of America Felix Secundus and of Maddox's Orchard
- B. Beginning of George Comb's land

c. 1857 survey plat of Leonardtown laid out by Benjamin Tippet. The plat confirms the location of the Union Hotel on the west side of Washington Street.

SM-545, The Union Hotel
St. Mary's County
8.5 Significance



1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Leonardtown showing the Union Hotel. Note that the map reveals that stores were located on the first floor while hotel rooms were located on the second floor. Also note that the addition to the west as well as the south side of the hotel building were removed after a serious fire in the 1950s.



LEONARDTOWN, MD.

SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE

38076-C6-TB-024

ROAD

1963

Heavy-duty

Medium-duty

— JATHYMETRY ADDED 1982

— PHOTOREVISED 1984

DMA 5660 I SW-SERIES V833

